

CHAPTER XVIII: WAR AND PEACE, 1915-1939

A. World War I, 1916-1919

In 1916 the U.S. Army practically deserted the Presidio of San Francisco. A year later its garrison increased to heights never before seen when more than 7,000 personnel prepared to fight the war in Europe.

The distant thunder from Europe's Western Front resulted in the closure of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at the end of 1915. The 24th Infantry Regiment departed the Presidio in January 1916 to take station at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. The garrison dropped precipitously from more than 1,700 personnel to a mere 86 men. That figure failed to exceed 100 throughout 1916, dropping to two officers and sixteen men in June, reminiscent of the state of affairs in 1848.¹

The monthly reports prepared by the post medical officer during these months disclosed that seventy civilians (20 men, 22 women, and 28 children) lived on the post. In August the medics treated coast artillerymen from Forts Baker and Barry, as well as men from the Quartermaster Corps and the Signal Corps. The old post hospital admitted sixteen patients that month. A little known activity that year was the Presidio Noncommissioned Officers' School. It existed from at least June 1916 to May 1917 when it closed.²

Events on the Mexican border in 1916 affected the Presidio even though it no longer had combat troops. Revolution and counter-revolution continued in Mexico and American troops under Generals Funston and Pershing remained on the alert. By 1916 Francisco "Pancho" Villa, at odds with the central government in Mexico City and who controlled much of northern Mexico, instigated a number of border incidents. On March 9 a band of his men numbering more than 500 attacked the border town Columbus, New Mexico, killing American citizens and soldiers and destroying property. The next day President Woodrow Wilson ordered Pershing's Punitive Expedition into Mexico to assist that government in the

1. The 24th Infantry soon transferred to the Mexican border where it joined the Punitive Expedition into Mexico. William G. Muller, *The Twenty Fourth Infantry, Past and Present* (Fort Collins, CO: Old Army Press, 1972).

2. PSF, Report of Sick and Wounded and Sanitary Report, January 1915 to December 1917; PSF, General Orders 3, April 12, 1917, RG 393, NA.

capture of Villa. In addition to the Regular Army forces, the President called 75,000 members of the National Guard to the border. In July the Presidio of San Francisco became a receiving station for recruits enlisting in the militia in the service of the United States.³

While not causing an immediate effect on the Presidio's fortunes, the National Defense Act of 1916 had a significant impact a few months later. In addition to authorizing strength increases in both the Regular Army and the National Guard, it established an Officers' and an Enlisted Reserve Corps to be raised in time of war and established the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in colleges and universities. Earlier, in 1913, the Chief of Staff Leonard Wood had held college students' military instruction camps at Monterey, California, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to which the students paid their own way. Now in 1916 seven such camps were held including one at the Presidio. This time the Army paid for transportation and subsistence.⁴

On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany. Additional quarters and training facilities became a necessity throughout the country. The Quartermaster Corps lost its responsibility for new construction and a Cantonment Division operated directly under the Secretary of War. At the Presidio, on the exposition grounds in the lower post, North Cantonment quickly sprang up. The temporary, wood frame, single story buildings consisted of eighty-one barracks, sixty lavatories, forty-five mess halls, post exchanges and storehouses, with a capacity of 6,000 personnel. A smaller cantonment for training coast

3. PSF, Post Returns, July 1916. At that time General Pershing commanded the Punitive Expedition while General Funston commanded the Southern Department. When Funston unexpectedly died in February 1917, Pershing succeeded him as department commander. Frederick Funston, "the Little General," was buried at the San Francisco National Cemetery. A severe storm marked the day. *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 25, 1917.

Francisco Villa, born in 1878, described as a cattle thief and wanted for murder, sided with the revolutionaries in Chihuahua State as early as 1910. In 1911 the border city Ciudad Juarez fell to him and his allies. Excellent in business he soon controlled casinos, hotels, and owned a hacienda. At one time President Wilson considered backing him when he promised guarantees to American investors. But when the United States supported a rival in Mexican politics, Villa went after American citizens, killing mine employees, then invading New Mexico. Pershing failed to capture him in 1916. Villa eventually retired to a ranch where assassins shot him to death. See Ramon Eduardo Ruiz, *Triumphs and Tragedy, A History of the Mexican People* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1992), pp. 314, 328-334, and 344; Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, pp. 355-356.

4. Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, p. 367; Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 220; Lerwill, *Personnel Replacement*, pp. 166-167 and 198. Although the term "National Guard" had been in common usage for some time, the 1916 act made it official.

artillerymen was constructed on Fort Winfield Scott's drill grounds.⁵

Whether North Cantonment could house 6,000 personnel or the 4,000 the War Department reported, all the Presidio, East and West Cantonments, Main Post, and the new North Cantonment, soon felt the pressures of a major war.⁶ New arrivals at the Presidio may have felt the initial confusion of the new adventure as expressed in the following:

Cantonments and training schools blossomed all over the country. The Regular and the newcomer found themselves thrown into a hectic life totally different from the past. Gypsying wives, following their menfolk, found lodging where best they could. Some newcomers, brought into immediate contact with existing garrison life, floundered, bewildered by the code and customs of which they had known nothing. Welcomed warmly by some, they were snubbed by others of the "old" Army. Both newcomer and oldtimer suffered equally from scrounging landlords and shopkeepers.⁷

The 1st Battalion of the 12th Infantry, which regiment had left the Presidio for the Mexican border in 1914, returned in 1917 and went into camp at the North Cantonment. There the experienced 12th supplied the cadre for the establishment of two new Regular Army infantry regiments, the 62d and 63d. The three formed the Provisional Infantry Brigade and trained for the war in Europe, the 12th and the 62d scheduled for the Eighth Division, the 63d for the Eleventh Division. Also returning from the border, the Ambulance Company 2 and Field Hospital 2 took up quarters in the Presidio proper.⁸

5. Apparently, the mobilization of the Second and Fifth Provisional Infantry Brigades of the California National Guard began on April 5. Whether these outfits came to the Presidio temporarily remains unknown. *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 10, 1917; Anon, "World War I 1917-1918," Presidio Army Museum files.

6. *The Star Presidian*, July 28, 1961; War Department, *Annual Report, 1918*, 1:1309, and 1919, vol. 1, part 4, p. 4174. The War Department stated the Presidio's camp capacity to be 3,923 in 1918. The construction contractor for North Cantonment was G.M. Gest, New York City. Risch, *Quartermaster Support*, p. 607.

7. Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 224.

8. Stewart and Erwin, p. 85; PSF, Report of Sick and Wounded, May 1917, RG 393, NA; Col. Milton Halsey, communication, October 1992; U.S. *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War (1917-19)*, v. 3, part 1, *Tactical Divisions Organized in 1918. Posts, Camps, and Stations* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1949), pp. 957-958. In 1919 an anonymous book about the Twelfth U.S. Infantry appeared. Obviously compiled by members of the regiment, it contained two pages of photographs taken in and about the Presidio and San Francisco in 1917. The regiment considered the Presidio to be "The Home of the Twelfth," describing it as "the most liberally controlled Army post in the United States." Fondly, it wrote, "Although the Presidio offered rides through the hills and hikes along the beaches, if the soldier desired indoor recreation . . . there were the YMCA buildings and the Red Cross Club Room in the Oregon Building. On Saturday nights, the Brigade Dance was held beneath the lofty rafters of the pine-facaded Oregon Building and many young women would come out from town." *Twelfth U.S. Infantry 1798-1919, Its Story by Its Men* (New York: Knickerbocker, 1919), pp. 66-67.

In April 1917 the first students for the enlisted men's and civilians' 2,500-man officers' training school arrived at the Presidio. This camp opened in May and at the end of three months more than 1,000 graduates had been recommended for commissions. A second officers' training camp began immediately.⁹

The war effected the Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Winfield Scott in several ways. The number of coast artillery companies declined even before the Army commenced dismounting weapons at those batteries considered obsolete. In 1916 the 13th Company transferred to Fort Miley and the 64th Company to a camp at Calexico, California. Two companies, the 61st and 67th, transferred to France in 1917 where they served in an antiaircraft battalion. While the Coast Artillery Corps' strength figures for 1917 and 1918 at Fort Winfield have not been found, it is probable they were considerably smaller than just a few years earlier.¹⁰

Fort Winfield Scott did, however, have an active training program during the war. In 1917 a seven-company Coast Artillery cantonment located on the post's drill field north of the parade ground consisted of fourteen barracks, seven messes, and seven latrines. A short distance away fourteen sets of officers' quarters completed the camp. An undated map, circa 1917 or 1918, showed more structures across a road from the barracks. This group was labeled "Enlisted Specialist School" while the cantonment was now labeled "Lancaster Cantonment," probably because of its nearness to Battery Lancaster.¹¹

In June 1918 three Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) camps opened at Plattsburg Barracks, New York; Fort Sheridan, Illinois; and at the Presidio of San Francisco. Together they trained 6,500 college students, the first of whom received their commissions in September. The Presidio's first ROTC camp began operations around June 6, 1918. A memorandum that date announced that the class would attend

9. Anon, "World War I, 1917-1918," Presidio Army Museum; Kinnaird, *History of the Golden Gate*, p. 341; *The Star Presidian*, July 28, 1961.

10. Thompson, *Seacoast Fortifications*, pp. 262-263 and 277; Kinnaird, *History of the Golden Gate*, p. 343.

11. All traces of the barracks and school had disappeared by 1928. The officers' quarters, still standing in 1933, were removed during construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. Completion Report, Painting and Repairing Temporary Quarters for Balloon Company, Construction Division Completion Reports 1917-1919, Coast Defense of San Francisco, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Balloon companies were not assigned to San Francisco until 1920.

lectures in the YMCA building (the enlisted club during the exposition). The next day the men marched to the former fair's Oregon Building to have photographs taken. Other documents told of the twelve companies (A through M) having courses in bayonet, hand grenades, physical training, rifle range, and field firing. The rifle range was located at or near the exposition racetrack at the west end of the cantonment. By July the companies called themselves the ROTC Provisional Regiment. Colleges represented included the University of Denver, University of Washington, University of Utah, University of California, Colorado School of Mines, New Mexico Military Institute, Washington State College, University of Oregon, and many others. Shortly thereafter a new camp was announced to start July 18, its quota being only 250 men. This class, designated the Students Army Training Corps (SATC), lasted for two months.

In August the ROTC men marched to the Presidio's main parade ground to witness a review of the 63d Infantry Regiment at full war strength by the Presidio's commanding officer, Brig. Gen. E.J. McClernand. They were promised that after the review the 63d would hold a "singing exercise." Two weeks later the French general Paul G. Pau visited the ROTC camp to observe the work being done.¹²

Because the Army had abolished the venerable monthly Post Returns at the end of 1916, it has proven difficult to determine the full extent of the Presidio's garrison during the war years. This vacuum was partially filled in 1949 with the publication of *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces In the World War*. According to that document the Presidio housed the following organizations in 1917-1918:

Camps

Officers' Training Camp	1st camp, May 15-August 11, 1917 2d camp, August 27-November 27, 1917
Students' Army Training Corps	One camp, July-September 1918

Troops

Bakers and Cooks School
Presidio headquarters
Ordnance detachment

12. Lerwill, *Personnel Replacement*, p. 198; Memorandum, ROTC Camp, 1918; General Orders, ROTC Camp 1918, RG 393, NA. Graduates from the SATC Camp were authorized, if over 21, to apply for appointments as second lieutenants, Infantry, in the National Army. By October 1918 the University of California at Berkeley had begun "Section B," SATC, on the campus. PSF, Special Orders, 1918, RG 393, NA.

Signal Supply Detachment 8
Veterinarian detachment

Divisional Units

8th Division – 12th Infantry, 62d Infantry, 2d Field Artillery (mobilizing for overseas)
11th Division – 63d Infantry (mobilizing for overseas)
13th Division – 44th Infantry (garrison duty)
40th Division – 143d Field Artillery (mobilizing for overseas)
159th Infantry Regiment
145th Machine Gun Battalion;
65th Field Artillery Brigade (less the 145th Field Artillery Regiment)
115th Signal Battalion (demobilizing)
316th Engineers (demobilizing)
319th Engineers (demobilizing)
91st Division – Division headquarters, 363d Infantry, 348th Machine Gun Battalion,
347th Field Artillery (demobilizing)

Non-divisional Units

Artillery	First – Army Artillery Park
Coast Artillery	1st Antiaircraft Sector; 40th and 67th Regiments
Medical Department	Base Hospitals 30, 47, 96, and 210; Evacuation Hospital 17
Motor Transportation Corps	6th Motor Command; 406th and 411 Motor Supply Trains
Quartermaster Corps	Bakery Companies 391 and 416
Signal Corps	322 Field Signal Battalion; 411th Training Battalion
U.S. Guards	6th, 23d, 24th, and 25th Battalions; Company D, 30th Battalion; 37th, 38th, and 43d Battalions

The Presidio of San Francisco became a demobilization center on December 7, 1918. The number of personnel demobilized by May 3, 1919, amounted to 29,270.¹³

Equally lacking from the records were the day to day events that lent life to the statistics. Still, a few events emerged. The Oregon State's exposition building located at the northeast corner of North Cantonment continued to provide facilities to the troops throughout the war. The columns for the huge

13. *Order of Battle*. The U.S. Guards, National Army, guarded industrial facilities throughout the Bay Area including such firms as the Bethlehem Steel Company, Rolf Shipbuilding Company, etc. PSF, Special Orders 160, July 19, 1918, RG 393, NA.

building were solid logs four feet in diameter and thirty-five feet high. A clear span, 75 feet by 150 feet, occupied the interior and the overall dimensions measured 135 feet by 255 feet. A "magnificent" flagstaff in front was said to be the tallest in the world. Even before the exposition ended an effort was mounted to have the Army acquire the \$175,000 building free of cost. The Secretary of War concluded that the building was neither permanent nor suited for military use and declined the offer. The building was demolished after the war. The Army also made use of the Chinese building standing to the south of North Cantonment, the troops attending lectures on gas defense in it.¹⁴

The one structure from the exposition that the Army retained for a time was the Palace of Fine Arts. At one time it became an army warehouse, M-29. Due to deterioration, however, the Army decided to demolish the structure in 1924. The citizens of San Francisco raised a great protest causing the Army to delay demolition. After much negotiating the U.S. Army conveyed the site of the Palace of Fine Arts to the City and County of San Francisco in 1927.¹⁵

Although the battles occurred far away, the war influenced all aspects of the Presidio's routine. One order prohibited army trucks and wagons from passing through Golden Gate Park. Sgt. Ruth Farnam, Serbian Army, lectured the 63d Infantry on her experiences in the Balkan wars. From time to time the troops attended rallies urging them to purchase Liberty Bonds. The post medical officer advised the San Francisco health officer that a Presidio soldier had acquired an acute case of gonorrhea in Room 112, Woodstalk Hotel. He requested that the city take the "proper steps." The transfer of an enlisted man disclosed the fact that the Pigeon Section, 8th Service Company, Signal Corps, formed a part of the Presidio garrison.

A barracks fire in 1918 brought attention to the Presidio's fire department and its chief, Timothy J. Harrington, formerly a member of the San Francisco fire department. The Army built a fire station, 218, at the main post that year. Constructed by post labor from material salvaged from the exposition's

14. Photo of Oregon Building, QMC Form 117, PSF Building Forms, OCE, RG 77, NA; AG, USA, December 3, 1915, and accompanying correspondence, General Correspondence Geographical File, hereinafter cited as GCGF, 1922-1925, OQMG, RG 92, NA; PSF, General Orders 22, March 27, 1918, RG 393, NA.

15. Secretary of War, January 28, 1930; Stewart and Erwin, p. 67. For a time in the 1920s the Army allowed the University of California use of the palace.

grandstand, the wood frame, "plastered" exterior, building cost \$2,050.¹⁶

The first months of the war saw a rapid turnover in post commanders, several of them being Coast Artillery Corps officers from Fort Winfield Scott. Not until November 1917 did Brig. Gen. Edward J. Clermand take command. He remained in command until February 1919 when once again the spinning door syndrome took effect. The war caused the appointment of the Presidio's first post censor when Lt. E. C. Dresser assumed the assignment. The time-span that the 44th Infantry formed the garrison has not been determined and only one strength figure for the Presidio during 1917-1918 has been found – 7,206 soldiers in January 1918. Fort Winfield Scott had two commanding officers, both CAC, during the war: Col. John P. Hains and Col. Frederick Marsh.

A worldwide epidemic of influenza reached the United States in early September 1918. By mid-October it had affected the Bay Area. On October 14 post headquarters issued extensive orders that prohibited civilians from entering the reservation except those tradesmen and others having business and who held passes. Likewise, most of the garrison found itself restricted to the Presidio. Only commissioned officers had no restrictions; and married men whose families lived in the city could go off post. All YMCA and Knights of Columbus entertainment on the reservation was canceled. Later, orders announced the distribution of gauze masks.¹⁷

Uniform regulations issued in 1918 described both the garrison and off-post dress:

Garrison

Officers: service hat with hat cord, peaked, four indentations; olive drab coat (olive drab shirt for drill); service breeches; russet leather shoes and leggings, or boots; ribbons and marksmanship badges optional.

Enlisted men: service hat with cord, peaked, four indentations; olive drab coat or shirt; service

16. PSF, General Orders 9, October 16, 1917; 5, January 10, 1918; and 28, April 25, 1918; Special Orders 249, October 26, 1918, RG 393, NA; *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 7, 1918.

17. PSF, General Orders 11, November 12, 1917; 6, January 10, 1918; 66, October 14, 1918; and 72, October 22, 1918, RG 393, NA. The quarantine and gauze masks were revoked in November.

breeches; russet leather shoes, canvas or leather reinforced leggings; ribbons and badges optional.

Off-post

Similar to on-post, except officers wore a white collar or stock, white cuffs, and ribbons.¹⁸

When the fighting ceased in November 1918, the Army established thirty demobilization centers in the United States so that men could be discharged close to their homes. The Presidio of San Francisco became one of these. Within nine months the Army demobilized nearly 3,250,000 soldiers. Among the units reporting to the "Demobilization Camp," the 91st Division, which had a large number of Californians, arrived in May 1919. This division had organized at Camp Lewis, Washington, in August 1917. In France in November 1918 the 91st Division, as part of the U.S. First Army, played an important role in the critical Meuse-Argonne Campaign. Demobilized on May 13, it was reconstituted and became a part of the Organized Reserves in 1921. This reorganization took place at the Presidio. The division served in Europe during World War II. In 1994 the 91st Division, then a training division, had its headquarters at Fort Baker, California.¹⁹

In addition to the North and Coast Artillery cantonments, both the Presidio and Fort Winfield Scott constructed a number of other buildings between 1915 and 1918. The Quartermaster Corps' San Francisco General Depot erected six, large, one-story warehouses (1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, and 1188) for storing medical and signal supplies in the Lower Presidio. Another smaller warehouse (230) was built near Letterman General Hospital. Twelve new officers' quarters graced a knoll between the East and West Cantonments and facing on today's Presidio Boulevard. Named East Terrace (and sometimes called Presidio Terrace), the quarters were generally similar to those on Infantry Terrace, each having two stories, stuccoed concrete walls, and hip-and-gable tiled roofs. Five of the buildings were duplexes housing company-grade officers (540, 541, 542, 544, 548); and four were designated for single family field grade officers (543, 545, 547, 549). Costs ranged between \$6,800 and \$10,500 each.

18. PSF, General Orders 58, September 10, 1918.

19. Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, p. 405; PSF, General Orders 7, January 25, 1919, RG 393, NA; Kinnaird, *History of the Golden Gate*, p. 346; *The Army Almanac*, pp. 679-680.

The industrial area at Fort Winfield Scott saw several new structures in 1917-1918: a quartermaster office (1220) adjacent to the quartermaster warehouse (1219), quartermaster shop and paint shop (1227), warehouse (1230), and flammable storage (1245). An ordnance storehouse (1659) erected about that time east of Battery Marcus Miller later became occupied by the Golden Gate Bridge District. At the officers' row on Kobbe Avenue, several of the quarters acquired garages (1305, 1307, 1313, 1317, and 1319). Also on Kobbe Avenue a large ordnance storehouse (1340) was erected west of officers' row in 1917. In the vicinity of the fort's noncommissioned officers' quarters built in 1909-1912, the quartermaster added a small set of sergeant's quarters (1240) in 1918.

While the Presidio of San Francisco lay far from the battles in Europe, it played an important role in the mobilization and training of troops for the Great War, not only for Europe but Asia as well. When peace came, the Presidio welcomed home the veterans of those far away struggles.

B. Siberia 1918-1920

Russian-Japanese rivalry in northeast Asia intensified through the 1890s, culminating in war in 1904. President Theodore Roosevelt arranged a peace between the two countries at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Japan took control of the southern half of Sakhalin Island, Port Arthur (Lushun), and the South Manchuria Railroad. About that time Japan also occupied Korea that had been under Russian influence. Russia, however, retained full autonomy over its Siberian empire and the Trans-Siberian Railroad that extended 4,700 miles from the Urals to Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan.²⁰

In World War I Russia joined the Allies in the struggle against Germany and the Central Powers. Russia suffered serious reversals on the battlefields, and repression and corruption at home resulted in revolution and the overthrow of the autocratic imperial monarchy early in 1917. In November of that year the Bolshevik party under the leadership of Nicolav Lenin and Leon Trotsky overthrew the Kerensky provisional government and seized power. A flood of refugees – privileged class, army officers, right wingers, anarchists, Cossacks, and others – poured into Siberia where the Bolsheviks attempted to form

20. Benson Bobrick, *East of the Sun, The Epic Conquest and Tragic History of Siberia* (New York: Poseidon, 1992), pp. 350-355 and 372-374; G. Nye Steiger, *A History of the Far East* (Boston: Ginn and Company, 1944), pp. 718-724. The Trans-Siberian Railroad, built in sections between 1891 and 1905, eventually reached a length of 5,500 miles, making it the longest railroad in the world.

"soviets" at the same time. Tension mounted at Vladivostok, now the principal seaport. In December 1917 Japanese, British, and American warships arrived at Vladivostok to protect nationalists and their property.²¹

The Bolshevik and German governments signed a peace treaty in February 1918. The Allies became fearful that German and Austrian prisoners of war being released would dominate affairs in Siberia. Also there was the matter of some 50,000 Czechoslovakian soldiers who had deserted from the Austrian-Hungarian army and had joined the Russians against Germany. These Czechs arranged with the Bolshevik government for transportation across Siberia to Vladivostok and then to Europe via the Panama Canal to fight in France.

By May 1918 the vanguard of the Czechs had reached Vladivostok while the main body had taken over several important railroad towns. A month later they overthrew the soviet government in Vladivostok and instead of leaving Russia they controlled critical areas in Siberia. In August the United States, Japan, and Great Britain declared that they did not intend to interfere with either the political integrity or the internal affairs of Russia, but they would help the Czechs against the Austrian-German prisoners of war who were attacking them. Each of the allies agreed to send about 10,000 troops. It became apparent, however, that each of the allies had its own interpretation of the intervention. France was interested in reconstituting an eastern front. Britain wanted to stamp out communism in the Russian far east. Japan was determined to support anti-communism and reactionary factions. (Some suspected Japan of seeking the annexation of Siberian territory.) The United States appeared to have no definite policy except to help extract the Czechs.²²

In August 1918 Allied troops began arriving at Vladivostok. Both the United States and China sent about 10,000 soldiers as had been agreed. The British, French, and Italian forces combined amounted to a little less than 10,000. The Japanese, however, poured in 70,000 men and the Japanese general Kituz Otani sought to command the whole.²³

21. Bobrick, *East of the Sun*, pp. 40 and 391; Steiger, *Far East*, p. 775. The Cossacks, who were to be involved with future events in Siberia, were independent frontiersmen who made their living in the fringes of the Russian empire.

22. Steiger, *Far East*, pp. 777-779.

23. *Ibid.*, p. 779. The Dominion of Canada contributed 4,000 men as part of the British force.

Back in California, while the Army built up and trained infantry regiments at the Presidio of San Francisco, it also established Camp Fremont at Menlo Park, twenty-five miles to the south, in 1917. The camp proper contained 1,200 of the 7,200 acres of the new reserve. When completed the camp consisted of 1,124 wooden buildings and had a tent capacity of 30,000 men. Construction costs amounted to \$1.9 million. Regular Army regiments began arriving in September 1917 – 8th Infantry from the Philippines, the 13th Infantry in November, and the 12th and 62d Regiments from the Presidio in January 1918. Probably too the 27th Field Artillery arrived from the Presidio. In 1918 the 27,000 soldiers at Camp Fremont mobilized to form the Eighth ("Golden Arrow") Division on January 5 and trained for combat in Europe. On July 18 Maj. Gen. William S. Graves arrived at Camp Fremont to take command. He had received orders not to lead the Eighth to France but to command a Siberian Expeditionary Force.²⁴

On August 3, 1918, General Graves selected 100 officers and 5,000 men from the Eighth Division and transferred them to the Siberian force. In the Philippines two infantry regiments, the 27th and 31st, prepared to sail to Siberia to complete Graves' command. The 27th Regiment arrived at Vladivostok on August 16.²⁵

Graves and the initial force from Camp Fremont (the staff, 40 officers, and 1,889 men) sailed from Fort Mason on army transport *Thomas* on August 14. Battleship *Oregon* and U.S. Gunboat *Vicksburg* accompanied the ship. When Graves observed that the warships could not keep up, he ordered *Thomas* to proceed without them. The expedition arrived at Vladivostok September 1. The rest of the command followed.²⁶

24. *Order of Battle of United States Land Forces*, p. 958; J.T. Knight, September 12, 1923, to AG, WD, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA; William F. Strobridge, *Golden Gate to Golden Horn, Camp Fremont, California and the American Expedition to Siberia of 1918* (San Mateo: San Mateo County Historical Association). Strobridge states that Camp Fremont was located on 25,000 acres of leased land. Knight gave the figure 7,200 acres. Graves had served in California in 1906 relief work.

25. The Philippine Department also sent a field hospital, an ambulance company, and a company from a telegraph battalion. Their experience in Siberia resulted in these regiments being given the appellations of Wolfhounds (27th) and Polar Bears (31st).

26. William S. Graves, *America's Siberian Adventure, 1918-1920* (New York: Peter Smith, 1941), pp. 2, 34, 36; Lawrence Packard, "An Account of the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia, August 1918 to March 1919" (Hoover Institution Archives, Stanford University), pp. 4-5. Graves' troops from the United States included the 5,000 infantrymen (presumably including men from the Presidio's 12th and 62d Regiments), Graves' staff from Fort Sam Houston, Evacuation Hospital 17, Base Hospital 93 from Camp Lewis, Medical Supply Depot 7 from San Francisco, two sections of Bakery Company 391 from the Presidio of San Francisco, a veterinary field unit,

American soldiers found Vladivostok a cheerless place. Among the problems they encountered were body lice, a lack of firewood, illnesses such as cholera and influenza, and a lack of sanitation. Also disquieting was rampant venereal disease. General Graves wrote that the number of prostitutes was appalling; of Vladivostok's 100,000 population, no fewer than 8,000 of its citizens engaged in the sex trade. Law did not exist nor did anyone have the authority to establish laws. Recently a British soldier had died from drinking wood alcohol. While barracks existed, they lacked doors, windows, and bathing facilities. Moreover these buildings had to be scrubbed for a month to make them habitable.²⁷

In September 1918 the War Department planned to send Base Hospital 93 from Camp Lewis, Washington, to Siberia. General Graves' headquarters, however, requested that a detachment of nurses (a chief nurse, twenty-five nurses, and a dietitian) be sent instead. These women, believed to have been recruited from civilian life, sailed from San Francisco as part of Evacuation Hospital 17 for a two-year tour in Siberia. They arrived at Vladivostok on November 4, 1918, and occupied Russian barracks that had been remodeled into apartments. The nurses' morale soon dropped due to the Siberian winter and the primitive environment. In the spring of 1919 the Army's surgeon general decided to shorten their tour to one year with the second year being served in either Hawaii or the Philippines. The last group of the army nurses left Siberia on April 1, 1920, and reported for duty in the Philippine Islands.²⁸

General Graves believed that his instructions from the War Department imposed upon him the duty of remaining absolutely neutral in any conflict between the communists and their reactionary opponents and he fiercely followed this course. The United States Department of State supported the Russian Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak, a White Russian who had British support, and believed that the United States forces should fight Bolsheviks. The War Department (and Graves) disagreed in that the Kolchak group treated the peasants badly; besides the policy of the United States was to remain neutral (Kolchak was executed

(..continued)

and medical and dental officers.

At the same time about 5,000 American troops under British command landed in the Murmansk-Archangel region of northern Russian to guard large quantities of war supplies and communications lines. Before withdrawing in June 1919, these troops suffered heavy casualties. See Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, p. 407.

27. Graves, September 14 and 24, 1918, to P.C. March, in General William S. Graves Collection, Hoover Institution Archives, Stanford.

28. Weed, *Medical Department*, vol. 13, pt. 2, *The Army Nurse Corps*, pp. 297-298.

in 1920). When State complained that Graves failed to cooperate, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker told President Wilson that Graves followed the President's instructions to the letter. Wilson was satisfied.

By July 1918 the Czecho-Slovak forces no longer desired to fight in France but had decided to remain in Siberia at least for the time being. They associated with anti-Bolshevik groups along the Trans-Siberian railroad. By then the Allies saw their missions as being: assistance to the Czecho-Slovaks in controlling the railroad; prevention of prisoner of war activity in Siberia; establishing a front against possible Austro-German advances (daily becoming less of a threat); and retaining territory under anti-Bolshevik authority.

When Graves first arrived in Vladivostok, General Otani, the senior allied commander, said that he commanded the United States and other troops. Graves responded that he was not under Japanese control and the issue ceased to be a matter of discussion. Still, Japan attempted to use the presence of American troops to its own advantage, sometimes cooperating, sometimes refusing to work in harmony. On the positive side Otani notified Graves in October that the Emperor and Empress had expressed profound sympathy for him and hoped he remained healthy in spite of the rigorous climate.

By early 1919 matters had changed considerably. Graves informed Washington that the Japanese were arming the Cossacks whose leaders now announced that the country's troubles were due to the presence of American troops. Graves became convinced that Japan did not want order in Siberia. In a letter to Otani he requested an investigation of an occurrence where Japanese soldiers with bayonets had arrested two American soldiers because a Japanese civilian said they had struck him. On another occasion Graves reported that Japanese newspapers broadcasted that the United States had motives regarding Siberia that were antagonistic to the interests of Japan. Finally, in September 1919, Lt. Col. R.L. Eichelberger, Graves' intelligence officer, prepared a twenty-page report on Japanese unfriendliness: anti-American propaganda in Siberian newspapers, no respect for American officers, attacking an American officer with rifle butts, among other unfriendly acts.²⁹

Until the signing of the Armistice that ended the fighting in Europe in November 1918, the American forces had performed ordinary garrison duty in the Vladivostok area. After that they helped guard a 100-

29. Colonel Eichelberger later served as the Presidio's commanding officer.

mile stretch of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, concentrating in the Vladivostok region and the South Ussuri area near the Chinese (Manchurian) border. Small detachments took their posts along the track. At some points only boxcars provided shelter against the coming winter. One company provided a guard at the "Suchan" coal mines. Other units guarded prisoners of war at a Base Prison Camp for whom Graves sought adequate food and clothing.

A history of the 27th Regiment recounted some of its Siberian adventures. It first came under fire in August 1918 when it came in contact with Chinese bandits. The clash resulted in one American being wounded and unknown casualties inflicted upon the enemy. Despite Graves' orders, two squads of Company C, 27th Infantry, came in contact with 150 Bolshevik irregulars at Kraeffski (?) railroad station, but no shots were fired. Later the Bolsheviks reinforced with thirty-five Chinese bandits returned. Meanwhile, a platoon from Company F had replaced Company C. A fire fight broke out; an American sergeant was killed and two privates captured. The skirmish lasted thirty minutes, and the two prisoners gained their freedom later. Another incident at Uspenka (?) involved a clash between men of the 27th and a band of Bolsheviks. In this exchange the Americans suffered two men lightly wounded, but the enemy had two killed, several wounded, and several captured. But as the author of the unit history wrote, the Americans had more trouble with the Cossacks than with the Bolsheviks.

General Graves maintained throughout the Siberian adventure that his troops did not fight the Bolsheviks. On one occasion, however, an error may have been made, "The United States troops in Siberia never engaged in fighting Red troops, before or after the Armistice. They did take part in a campaign in September 1918, but the enemy forces were reported as being partly composed of German and Austrian prisoners. I believed this report, else American troops would not have taken part in the campaign."³⁰

The first American returnees reached San Francisco for demobilization at the Presidio in October 1919. Newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, who had been against the Siberian intervention from the beginning, raged in the *San Francisco Examiner* when transport *Thomas* docked at Fort Mason. The paper told of stories of low morale and how bolshevism had spread among the soldiers themselves. Between the cruelties of American officers and the unfriendliness of the Japanese, reported the *Examiner*,

30. Graves, *Siberian Adventure*, p. 92. An interesting account by a lone coast artillery officer in Siberia, who commanded an infantry company at the Suchan coal mines, is found in *The Coast Artillery Journal* (May 1925) 62:408-415.

Siberia had become intolerable. Of the 543 doughboys aboard, 76 entered Letterman Hospital, 8 of them for insanity. Melancholia and morbidity had affected the troops, especially after American forces in Europe had returned home while these men remained in eastern Asia. The paper printed a poem by a Corporal Dorsey:

(to the tune "A Long, Long Trail")

There's a long, long sea-lane winding
Into dear old 'Frisco's gates,
Where we know we'll find a restaurant
That serves big juicy steaks.
There's a long, long trip before us,
But we'll pass the time somehow,
Till the day when we can gladly say,
To hell with transport chow.³¹

The last Americans withdrew from Siberia on April 1, 1920. Only the Japanese remained. An American lieutenant wrote, "Not a soldier knew, no, not even vaguely, why he had fought, or where he was going now, or why his comrades were left behind beneath the wooden crosses." General Graves wrote, "It has always been difficult for me . . . to understand why the United States ever acceded to the desires of England, France, and Japan to send United States troops to Siberia." Again, "I have never been able to understand by what means or by what agencies the people of the United States were led to believe our troops went to Siberia to fight Bolshevism." Finally, "I was in command of the United States troops sent to Siberia and, I must admit, I do not know what the United States was trying to accomplish by military intervention." The Siberian adventure had ended.

In a foreword in General Graves account of the Siberian affair, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker summarized its history best when he called it "a strange adventure."³²

31. *San Francisco Examiner*, October 6, 1919.

32. Bobrick, *East of the Sun*, p. 413; Graves, *Siberian Adventure*, pp. vii, 32, 91, and 354. In addition to the sources cited in this section, John Albert White, *The Siberian Intervention* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950) was most helpful. White made a strong case for Japan wanting to acquire Siberia and the United States' determination to prevent that acquisition. Japanese forces left Siberia in the fall of 1922. Soviet troops entered Vladivostok on October 25. Siberia became a part of the Soviet Union.

C. Two Decades of Peace, 1919-1939

Americans in the 1920s dreamed that great wars had ended forever. Someday, perhaps, conflict with Japan might occur, but that would be primarily a naval war. While the Army proposed a permanent Regular Army of 500,000 men in 1919, the Congress reduced the Army to fewer than 119,000 personnel by 1927. Historian Russell Weigley has written, "Altogether, despite the encouraging possibilities raised by the National Defense Act of 1920, the Army during the 1920s and early 1930s may have been less ready to function as a fighting force than at any time in its history." In the post-war reorganization, a new army headquarters at San Francisco was created and it moved its offices from the city to the Presidio. The Presidio continued in its role as an infantry post while Fort Winfield Scott remained the home of coast artillerymen. New construction during the "Roaring Twenties" remained at a low ebb, but in the Great Depression of the 1930s increased federal funding swept away much of the temporary cantonment construction that had become decrepit.³³

As the year 1919 unrolled the Presidio witnessed the continuing demobilization of thousands of soldiers. On one occasion a board of officers made recommendations for commissions in the Regular Army. Shortly afterwards a large number of lieutenants received fifteen days leave "for the purpose of securing employment."³⁴ The 44th Regiment continued to be the principal organization on the post until the 19th Regiment (The Rock of Chickamauga) relieved it about 1920. Before its departure the 44th Infantry Band played the "National Air" on Memorial Day 1919. About that time Pvt. Richard E. Hewson, Motor Transport Corps, caused the death of a civilian while driving his truck. While a board of officers investigated the accident, another board attempted to set fair prices for the services of tailors, barbers, shoemakers, and bootblacks at the Presidio. In November 1919 a group of army wives met to form the Presidio's Women's Club. Eighty-eight women joined and planned their first projects – a milk fund for needy army families and a lending library. Over its long life the club sponsored a myriad of activities – hospital visits, post nursery, thrift shop, youth activities, benefit drives, and national charity fund drives.³⁵

A highlight in the Presidio's history occurred in 1920, before the reorganization, when the commander of

33. Weigley, *History of the United States Army*, 402.

34. PSF, Special Orders 1, January 2, 1919, RG 393, NA.

35. PSF, General Orders 39, May 24, 1919; Special Orders 286, December 8, 1918; and 126, May 2, 1919, RG 393, NA; *Star-Presidian*, October 29, 1954.

the American Expeditionary Forces in France, John J. Pershing, returned to the post where most of his family had perished by fire only five years earlier. Met by members of the Army and Navy and distinguished citizens at Oakland on January 24, Pershing was escorted by ferry to San Francisco where he stayed at the St. Francis hotel. That day he visited wounded soldiers at Letterman General Hospital and addressed the American Legion at the Civic Auditorium. On the following morning he inspected the Presidio, Fort Winfield Scott, the U.S. Marine Hospital, and Fort Miley, including the coastal batteries. Following lunch at the department commander's quarters at Fort Mason, Pershing departed for Los Angeles.³⁶

The memory of the Pershing fire must have been on most peoples' minds during the visit. Perhaps that tragedy led the *San Francisco Chronicle* to headline in July, "Fire Protection Withdrawn From S.F. Presidio Post." The article explained how the War Department had issued orders reducing the Presidio's trained firemen from twenty to seven, placing army families and 2,000 patients at Letterman Hospital in danger. These orders had come just after the government had installed two triple-combination fire engines in the 1917 fire station. Photographs of the Presidio's wooden buildings accompanied the article. This condition did not last long; by 1924 a report outlined the state of the Presidio's fire protection:

Fire protection 1924 – one station, fifteen men (two companies) (six men and one operator to each company and one fire chief)

Apparatus – two hand-drawn hook and ladder trucks; converted Dodge Roaster to Chemical Tank, Dodge Bros.; one White truck with two 60-gallon tanks

Outside aid – Greenwich and Filmore station, 1½ miles, four minutes.³⁷

In 1920 the U.S. Congress passed a new National Defense Act that has been described as "one of the most constructive pieces of military legislation ever adopted in the United States." It established the Army of the United States with its three components: the Regular Army, the civilian National Guard, and the civilian Organized Reserves (Officers' Reserve Corps and Enlisted Reserve Corps). The six territorial departments, including the Western Department headquartered at San Francisco, were abolished and nine

36. *The Listening Post* (Letterman, December 27, 1919); *San Francisco Chronicle*, January 26, 1920. General Liggett, who had served under Pershing in France, was absent on official duty when Pershing visited his residence. Pershing again visited the Presidio in April 1923.

37. *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 23, 1920; PSF, Fire Protection 1924, OCE, RG 77, NA.

corps areas replaced them. The Army drew new boundaries so that all corps areas were about equal in the population available for military service. Each area had six infantry divisions: one Regular Army, two National Guard, and the nucleus of three Organized Reserve. Each area had fixed boundaries and its commander had full tactical and administrative control. The War Department's General Orders 50, August 20, established the Ninth Corps Area with its headquarters at San Francisco, Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett commanding. It encompassed eight western states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California.³⁸

Back in 1878 Gen. William Sherman ordered all military General headquarters to move from their rented facilities in cities to the nearest army posts. At San Francisco the Military Division of the Pacific headquarters moved to the Presidio where two humble Civil War barracks served as offices for the next ten years. Probably with considerable enthusiasm, headquarters returned to San Francisco in 1887. In the following years efforts to fund a suitable headquarters building either at the Presidio or Fort Mason received no support in the U.S. Congress. With the establishment of the Ninth Corps Area, however, headquarters moved from the Santa Fe Building back to the Presidio in 1921. It occupied the large, three-story, 1912 barracks (35) on the main parade. This time a sense of permanency accompanied the move.³⁹

Constituted in February 1901, at the time of the Philippine Insurrection, the Regular Army's 30th Infantry Regiment organized that year at the Presidio of San Francisco; Fort Logan, Utah; and in the Philippines. At the Presidio Companies A, B, C, and D organized as a provisional battalion prior to sailing for the Philippines. There the 30th participated in the Mindoro campaign. When it returned to the United States in 1909 the regiment again was assigned to the Presidio, where it remained until transferring to Alaska in 1912. Assigned to the Third Division in 1917, the 30th distinguished itself in France, particularly in pushing back the German drive at the Marne in July 1918. The French government awarded the regiment the Croix de Guerre with Palm. In 1921 the Presidio's 19th Infantry transferred to Hawaii. Still assigned to the Third Division, the Rock of the Marine, the 30th Infantry Regiment returned to the Presidio in

38. Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, pp. 407-408; Lerwill, *Personnel Replacement*, p. 230. After San Francisco had recovered from the San Francisco 1906 earthquake, army headquarters moved from the Presidio back to the city, in the Chronicle Building. By 1920 it occupied the Santa Fe Building. The date of that move has not been determined. Works Progress Administration, "The Army at the Golden Gate," p. 58.

39. PSF, "From Records Stored in Basement, Ninth Corps Area Headquarters (and Post Library)," 1939.

1922 where it remained for the next nineteen years, until 1941.

During this period the commanding officer of the regiment also served as the commander of the Presidio as well. The regiment initiated the "Message to Garcia" relay race that became a San Francisco institution for many years. Participants ran the relay with full field pack racing from the San Francisco Civic Center to Crissy Field on the reservation. During its assignment at the Presidio the regiment was adopted as "San Francisco's Own" and the 30th carried a flag bearing the city's seal.⁴⁰

Shortly after the 30th's arrival at the Presidio an anonymous letter arrived at post headquarters. The irate writer said that before the regiment's arrival the post gymnasium (122) had served admirably as such. Now, however, it was being converted into "joints" – service club, library, reading and writing room, pool hall, billiard hall, game room, and a place that sold stamps, all under Capt. C. M. Gale. Just who is this Captain Gale, the writer demanded.⁴¹

Trouble came to the 30th Infantry in August 1935 when Col. Irving J. Phillipson took command. The regiment had many good commanders over the years but now its luck ran out, "The problem in the Thirtieth Infantry resulted mainly from the callous attitude of Colonel Irving J. Phillipson, the regimental commander, in dealing with his subordinates . . . morale was poor." Officers boycotted the Officers' Club and they "hated him and his wife assists him in raising hell with the Regiment." Brig. Gen. George C. Marshall, then assigned to the General Staff, solved the problem by appointing Col. Robert L. Eichelberger to the Presidio. Eichelberger, according to his biographer, quickly straightened out the regiment. He allowed the officers to enjoy the social attributes of San Francisco instead of demanding they make the officers' club the center of their social life. While enforcing high standards he made the 30th a regiment to be proud of. Eichelberger supported regimental boxing; and pistol and rifle teams became army-wide champions. A tough training program kept the regiment moving constantly between the Presidio, Fort Ord, and Fort Lewis. Promoted to brigadier general in 1940, Eichelberger departed the

40. PSF, Post Returns, 1901-1916; *Star Presidian*, February 8, 1963; Col. Milton Halsey, communication with writer, 1993; Stewart and Erwin, pp. 66 and 70; Jean Fuller, PSF, January 11, 1974, to PSF Athletic Director, concerning American Revolution Bicentennial, Presidio Army Museum. Fuller suggested a renewal of the race. A 30th Infantry flag remains on display at San Francisco City Hall where it is practically buried by the flag of the 363d Infantry, 91st Division, also "San Francisco's Own."

41. Anonymous, PSF, November 10, 1922, to Dear Sir, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

Presidio.

Another commander of the 30th Infantry and the Presidio, Col. Charles B. Stone, Jr., January 1930-August 1933, received posthumous honor when the regiment's enlisted men planted and dedicated a Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) in his memory on the Infantry Terrace ridge near Fisher Loop.⁴²

Training activity dominated the 1920s and 1930s. The Ninth Corps Area conducted Citizens Military Training Camps (CMTC) for candidates for commissions in the Officers Reserve Corps. Exercises involved training in infantry, field artillery, coast artillery, cavalry, engineering, and signal. In 1933 the Army established a West Point Preparatory School at Fort Winfield Scott. The school prepared promising enlisted men for the West Point entrance examinations. The School for Bakers and Cooks continued to turn out high quality personnel. In 1937 the 30th Infantry participated with the U.S. Marine Corps in amphibious landings on San Clemente Island. Fourth Army headquarters held a command post exercise at the Presidio in 1939. Approximately 700 officers attended.⁴³

Gen. Douglas MacArthur served as the U.S. Army's chief of staff from 1930 to 1935. During that time he directed the further reorganization of the combat forces. In August 1932 the War Department established four field armies, without fixed boundaries, to provide tactical commands that had been lacking under the corps area organization. Under these headquarters Regular and National Guard divisions and other units trained together in summer maneuvers and other exercises, including joint exercises with the U.S. Navy.

42. John F. Shortal, *Forged by Fire, General Robert L. Eichelberger and the Pacific War* (University of South Carolina Press), pp. 23-25; Albert E. Davis, *Historical Monuments*, PSF, 1959.

Phillipson survived this incident and went on to become a major general in World War II.

Eichelberger graduated from West Point in 1909. In 1919 he served on General Graves' staff in Siberia. In the 1920s he had assignments in the Philippines and China. Serving as superintendent of West Point 1940-1942, he took command of the 77th Infantry Division. Assigned to the South Pacific under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, he fought on the Papua peninsula, New Guinea. In 1942 he commanded the XI Corps, then the I Corps, in New Guinea and New Britain. In 1944 as commander of the Eighth Army he led his troops in the liberation of Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. One of the first officers to occupy Japan, he remained with the Eighth Army until his retirement in 1948. Promoted to the rank of general, retired (4 stars), in 1954, Eichelberger died in 1961. *Webster's Military Biographies*.

43. Stewart and Erwin, p. 70; NPS, *Presidio of San Francisco, A Collection*, p. 112; Ganoë, *United States Army*, p. 515.

Fourth Army headquarters, organized in Omaha, Nebraska, under Maj. Gen. Johnson Hagood, had as its mission responsibilities for the western states. On paper it commanded four army corps containing eleven divisions (Regular Army, National Guard, and Organized Reserve) and four cavalry divisions (Regular Army and National Guard). In June 1936 the headquarters of Fourth Army moved to the Presidio of San Francisco where Maj. Gen. George S. Simonds took command of both it and the Ninth Corps Area.

Simonds, a long-time friend of Douglas MacArthur, received a rousing reception on his arrival at San Francisco in 1936. Eighteen bombers from Hamilton Field and six Crissy Field aircraft saluted him while still aboard transport *Republic*. A guard of honor and a band attended his debarking. Simonds walked from the Lombard Street entrance to the main parade while the 30th Infantry lined the Presidio streets. At the parade ground a 13-gun salute was fired, Fort Winfield Scott's band played ruffles and flourishes, and a presentation of the staff followed. Two days later a reception and dance were held at the Officers' Club.⁴⁴

Capt. Eugene N. Slappey, 30th Infantry, published an article on the Presidio, "Garden Spot of Ninth Corps," in the *United States Army Recruiting News*. Slanted toward potential recruits, the article described the post beginning with its Spanish history. He mistakenly wrote that the Presidio lay within the city limits of San Francisco. The present garrison consisted of "the 30th Infantry (popularly known as "San Francisco's Own"), the 9th Motor Transport Company, the 8th Signal Service Company, the 3d Bakery Company, and several small units of the supply branches. Here, too, is the 9th Corps Area Headquarters, and at Crissy Field, which is a sub-post of the Presidio, is the 91st Observation Squadron. Just across the way on a part of the original reservation is Fort Winfield Scott – the station of the 6th Coast Artillery and the 63d Coast Artillery (Antiaircraft)."

For years, coal had supplied heat to the Presidio's buildings. Now, said Slappey, gas was used for cooking and oil furnaces were being installed. Because the 30th continued to be assigned to the 3d Division, he said that the commanding general of the division had recently inspected the regiment and had declared the brick barracks the finest he had ever seen. Slappey stressed the many sports played year-

44. Jack B. Beardwood, *History of the Fourth Army*, U.S. Army Ground Forces Study 18 (Historical Section, Army Ground Forces, 1946), pp. 1-2; Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, p. 415; Lerwill, *Personnel Replacement*, p. 230; *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 21, 1936. Simonds concluded his army career at San Francisco, retiring in 1938.

round: baseball, football, tennis, volleyball, and boxing. Not to be overlooked, the first-class swimming pool in the Army Y was a chief attraction. Toward the end, he threw in the grabber that half the Presidio spent two months every year on the beautiful grounds of the Hotel Del Monte near Monterey where they trained the Army's civilian components.⁴⁵

A 1924 inspection report gave the Presidio garrison's strength figures for 1923 and 1924. In July 1923 the post's total strength was 864 (61 officers, 7 warrant officers, 1 field clerk, and 795 enlisted men). The highest figure was recorded for March 1924 – 2,404 (189 officers, 47 warrant officers, 26 field clerks, and 2,142 enlisted men.)⁴⁶

Fort Winfield Scott's annual inspection in 1938 disclosed that only three coast artillery batteries manned the post: Headquarters Battery and Batteries A and E, 6th Coast Artillery. The 6th Coast Artillery Band; Company A, 58th Quartermaster Corps; and the West Point Preparatory School completed the complement. Including one other battery stationed at Fort Baker the fort's strength amounted to 35 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 1,031 enlisted men.⁴⁷

Although a few Presidio streets had been named by 1900, at least unofficially, an organized effort to memorialize deceased army men by naming streets for them did not occur until 1924.⁴⁸ The first names selected were for former commanders of the Presidio, Department of California, Department of the Pacific, Military Division of the Pacific, and Ninth Corps Area. Six exceptions to that list were streets named for Master Sgt. Jedediah F. Chism, who saved General Pershing's son; Master Sgt. Carus Hicks, who organized the Presidio's Little League baseball teams; Ensign Jose Fernandez, Spanish Army; and three soldiers of the Mexican Army: Lieutenant Ignacio Martinez, Cpl. Joaquin Pena, and Captain

45. E.N. Slappey, "Typical Army Posts of Today," *United States Army Recruiting News* (n.d.), pp. 4-5 and 15.

46. J.L. Shepard, July 1, 1924, Annual Sanitary Report, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

47. J.M. Graham, June 13, 1938, to Ninth Corps Area, GCGF 1935-1945, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Anon, *Harbor Defenses of San Francisco* (Little Rock: Parke-Harper, 1938). The 6th Coast Artillery Regiment had been constituted and partly organized at Fort Winfield Scott on July 1, 1924. The 1st and 2d Battalions were activated on July 1, 1939, and the 3d Battalion on June 2, 1941, all at Fort Scott. The 4th Battalion was activated June 15, 1941, at Fort Funston. "6th Air Defense Artillery," Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association.

48. A 1900 map showed "McDowell Avenue" for today's Lincoln Boulevard, "Avenue A" for Park Boulevard, and "Avenue B" for Kobbé Avenue.

Francisco Sanchez. By 1954 thirty-four additional streets had received names and another sixty-one names were added in 1961. The names of two more enlisted men, a Sergeant Mitchell and a Corporal Zanolitz, both of whom received the Distinguished Service Medal posthumously in World War I, were added later. Today almost 200 streets on the military reservation bear names.⁴⁹

In 1926 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors took up the matter of the Presidio's streets and roads. It passed a resolution that the Clerk of the City forwarded to the Quartermaster General in Washington. The resolution stated that the Presidio's streets "are in a deplorable condition and in contrast to those of the City connecting therewith, and excite unfavorable comment from the visitors." The Board recommended that the Army and the City cooperate for improvements and an estimate. Washington's response was immediate – it had no money.⁵⁰

A post diary maintained in the 1930s listed a vast array of cannon salutes for visiting generals, admirals, and diplomats. In 1931 the Japanese Consul General visited the national cemetery and placed a plaque at the grave of Lt. W.W. Caldwell. Alas, the diary did not say why. In 1934 a High Mass for King Alexander of Yugoslavia was held in the old post chapel (45) that had become the Catholic Chapel of Our Lady.⁵¹

As a result of the great depression of the 1930s the U.S. Congress passed an act in 1933 that put jobless, single young men between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three to work in reforestation and reclamation work, each for six months, throughout the nation. Between 1933 and 1938 this Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) had 2.1 million men on its rolls at more than 1,500 camps. The U.S. Army had the responsibility for the construction and administration of the camps. Headquarters, Ninth Corps Area, assumed these responsibilities for the CCC camps within its geographical area on April 5. The Quartermaster Corps assembled construction materials and supplies at the Presidio for distribution to the camps and constructed warehouses for their protection. So many regular officers and noncommissioned

49. "Working Papers," Cabinet R-1, Master Plans Office, DEH, PSF; *Star Presidian*, August 11, 1961; [National Park Service], *Presidio National Register of Historic Places Registration Forms (1993)*, pp. 7-194 to 7-197 and 7-217 to 7-219. Another street name came to light when a fire destroyed a noncommissioned officer's quarters in West Cantonment. He lived on Sunshine Alley.

50. J.S. Dunnigan, October 20, 1926, to QMG, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

51. PSF, Post Diary, 1931-1937. King Alexander had been assassinated in France a few days earlier.

officers were assigned to the program that unit training came to a standstill. Late in 1934, however, Reserve officers took over the administration.⁵²

As early as World War I the concept of a great bridge spanning the magnificent Golden Gate took hold in some men's minds. Others thought the very idea to be ludicrous. Some military men worried that enemy bombing could destroy such a bridge, bottling up San Francisco Bay. Vested interests, such as the railroads that operated the ferry service across the bay, who enjoyed a monopoly on Bay Area transportation objected to the idea. Many agreed that nowhere had the entrance to a great harbor ever been bridged.

Nevertheless, in January 1923 the "Bridging the Golden Gate Association" formed to seek the support of the State of California and in May the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District Act became law. Because the military controlled the land on either side of the Golden Gate (Fort Winfield Scott and Fort Baker), War Department permission was a prerequisite to proceed.

The Army's San Francisco District Engineer, Col. Herbert Deakyne, notified Washington in April 1924 that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors had requested such permission and that the services of bridge engineer Joseph B. Strauss had been acquired. He reminded the War Department that in 1917 the Chief of Engineers had disapproved any bridges in the bay north of Hunters Point. Two weeks later Deakyne received permission to hold a hearing. Following the meeting he informed Washington that the U.S. Navy had no objections to a bridge, neither had there been any protests from the shipping industry. Adding that automobiles would probably cross at fifteen miles per hour, Deakyne recommended approval.

In August a board of officers met at Fort Winfield Scott to review the preliminary plans. It noted that an approach road would probably affect some of the coastal batteries including two that were still armed (Cranston, two 10-inch guns, and Godfrey, three 12-inch guns). If new batteries were constructed at Forts Barry and Funston, the board would have no objection to the loss of the Scott batteries. At the end of

52. Lerwill, *Personnel Replacement*, pp. 237-238; Kinnaird, *History of Golden Gate*, pp. 278-279; Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, p. 413. While the U.S. Army had responsibility for construction, supply, and administration of the camps, the Departments of Agriculture and Interior had technical supervision. Only one CCC camp was in the vicinity of San Francisco and it was located on the tunnel road between Forts Baker and Barry in Marin County. Risch, *Quartermaster Support*, p. 729.

1924 the Secretary of War John W. Weeks issued a provisional permit that granted authority to proceed with planning pending future circumstances.⁵³

For the next six weeks opposition to a bridge dragged the Bridge District through the courts, but the planners prevailed and in December 1928 the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District became incorporated. In 1929 Strauss formed the Advisory Engineering Board to counsel him and he established a field office at Fort Point for a headquarters for his resident engineer. Drafting rooms were established in the former quarters of the old masonry fort and a cafeteria opened in the second tier gun rooms.⁵⁴

Strauss and his advisory board held their first meeting in August 1929 at San Francisco. At that time they decided on a pure suspension bridge. A year later the Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley appointed a Special Army Board comprised of three high-ranking engineer officers to hold public hearings at San Francisco for a War Department permit to construct. Strauss attended a second hearing at Washington, D.C. and on August 11, 1930, the War Department issued the permit on the conditions that the bridge have a 4,200-foot span and a vertical clearance of 220 feet at mid-span and 210 feet at the towers. Strauss estimated the construction cost at slightly more than \$27 million.

Opposition to the bridge continued. Some people became outraged at the very thought. Images of enemy guns, earthquakes, and destruction of the scenery flooded the public mind. Yet, on November 4, 1930, District electors voted to approve the issuance of \$35 million worth of bonds.⁵⁵

Construction began on January 5, 1933. Several weeks later, at nearby Crissy Field, there occurred a ground-breaking ceremony, "the like of which for pageantry and enthusiastic support of the citizenry had never before been witnessed in the bay region". Building two viaducts at the Presidio (State Highway 1 and U.S. Highway 101) and approach roads in Marin County involved the demolition and reconstruction of military structures at both forts. Generally replacements and improvements were handled as Works

53. H. Deakyne, April 9 and July 10, 1924, to Chief of Engineers; Board of Officers, Proceedings, August 18, 1924; J.W. Weeks, December 20, 1924, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

54. Joseph B. Strauss, *The Golden Gate Bridge, Report of the Chief Engineer to the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District, California* (San Francisco, 1938; reprint 1970), pp. 26-35; John A. Martini, *Fort Point, Sentry at the Golden Gate* (n.p., Golden Gate National Park Association, 1991), p. 34.

55. Strauss, *Report*, pp. 37-42.

Progress Administration (WPA) projects. This work included the construction of artillery fire control stations, a \$125,000 Central Reserve Ammunition Magazine, rifle range, machine and other shops, gas stations, drainage and sewage systems, living quarters, and roads, "It was necessary to divert Lincoln Boulevard just south of the Toll Plaza and reconstruct approximately a quarter-mile depress it, and construct an overpass across it to connect the Presidio approach with the Toll Terminal."⁵⁶

Strauss won the hearts of preservationists when he decided to save the ancient masonry fort at Fort Point that was situated under the bridge construction:

Old Fort Scott, dating back to the late fifties . . . and still in a good state of preservation, now nestles between two pylons and beneath the 319-foot steel arch which at this point supports the bridge floor. While the old fort has no military value now, it remains nevertheless a fine example of the mason's art In the writer's view it should be preserved and restored as a national monument, and that was the primary reason for the arch.

Construction, nevertheless, did result in the demolition of the fort's counterscarp gallery.⁵⁷

When the South Pier was under construction a large ocean freighter suddenly loomed out of the fog and slid past the work with but a few feet to spare. Then in February 1937 disaster visited the project when a stripping scaffold fell carrying with it twelve men and 2,100 feet of safety net. Ten workers died.⁵⁸

Strauss listed the various contractors who worked on the Golden gate Bridge:

Main piers. Pacific Bridge Company.
Anchorage and approach piers. Barrett and Hilp
Structural steel, suspension span. Bethlehem Steel Company.
Cables, suspension span. John A. Roebling's Sons Company.
Structural steel, bridge approaches. J.H. Pomeroy and Company and
Raymond Concrete Pile Company.
Presidio approach road. Eaton and Smith
Pavement, suspension spans and approaches. Pacific Bridge Company and Barrett

56. *Ibid.*, pp. 49-52.

57. *Ibid.*, p. 62; Martini, *Fort Point*, p. 34. Adobe ruins were uncovered at Fort Point twenty feet below the surface, possibly a remnant of the Spanish-Mexican fortification at the point. Unidentified newspaper clipping, "Historic Walls Found."

58. Strauss, *Report*, pp. 50 and 52.

and Hilp.
Electrical work. Alta Electric and Mechanical Company, Inc.
Elevators in towers. Otis Elevator Company.
Toll plaza. Barrett and Hilp
Final paint coat. Pacific Bridge Painting Company.

Some statistics involved in the work included:

Total length of bridge, 8,981 feet
Length of suspended structure, 6,450 feet
Length of main span, 4,200 feet
Length of each side span, 1,125 feet
Width of bridge, 90 feet
Height of towers, 746 feet
Cables: Diameter of cables 36-3/8 inches
Length of one cable 7,650 feet
Number of wires in each cable 27,572
Number of strands in each cable 61
Total length of wire used 80,000 miles

The Golden Gate Bridge, one of the highest suspension bridges in the world, had been completed.⁵⁹

Two regional highways, constructed in the 1930s, crossed the reservation to provide access to the bridge from San Francisco. From the south, State Highway 1 (Park Presidio Boulevard, a beautiful, landscaped highway linking Golden Gate Park and the Presidio) coursed across the Presidio from near Mountain Lake to meet U.S. Highway 101 (Doyle Drive reaching westward from the city's Lombard Street) where the two, as one, continued on to the Toll Plaza and the Golden Gate Bridge. The two highways also provided an intercity connection between Lombard Street and park Presidio Boulevard. The only direct access from both 101 and 1 to the Presidio within the reservation was at the viewing area near the Golden Gate Bridge.

Both highways were viaducts in part as they passed through the Presidio. In addition, Park Presidio Boulevard was also partly underground where it ran through the 1,300-foot General Douglas MacArthur tunnel. Doyle Drive, at least in part, visually separated the main Presidio from the San Francisco Bay front, while Park Presidio Boulevard separated the Presidio from Fort Winfield Scott in part. Both US 101 (Doyle Drive) and State 1 (Park Presidio Boulevard) have been listed as contributing to the National

59. *Ibid.*, pp. 73-74; NPS, *Creating a Park*, pp. 16-18 and 48-50; NPS, *Presidio, National Register Registration Forms*, pp. 7-53 and 7-195.

Historic District, Presidio of San Francisco.

The Royal Spanish Coat of Arms of the 17th Century was painted on the wall over the fireplace in the Presidio Officers' club ballroom. In 1939 the post quartermaster, Maj. George M. Chandler, noting discrepancies in the painting, prepared a thorough description of the coat of arms and the Spanish crown. Apparently this document became mislaid for Chandler, now writing from retirement, again informed the Presidio of the errors. He said that the shield and the crown were incorrectly delineated and elements in the shield were reversed. It was as if one called the great admiral Columbus Christopher, "I don't recall ever having seen an officer shot for wearing medals or sabers on the wrong side, but the rules are clear; and the arms of Spain are Castile and Leon, and not Leon and Castile." Giving specific instructions on the proper appearance, he advised the Club to repaint the coat of arms. At the same time Chandler prepared descriptions of the Spanish coat-of-arms on the four ancient cannon in front of the Officers' Club that dated from the Spanish period.⁶⁰

Chandler also undertook to relocate four bronze tablets that the Daughters of the American Revolution had placed to mark the four corners of the Spanish presidio. He asked the Daughters for their cooperation and acquiescence for the proposed changes:

Tablet 1. To be removed from its concrete setting on the ground in front of the Officers' Club and placed on the wall of the club building.

Tablet 2. To change the word "south" to "north" so as to read: "this tablet marks the north west corner," and reset the tablet 200 feet to the north of its present position at the actual northwest corner of the old presidio." He added, "The actual south west corner of the old wall has been located as within the west patio of the club."

Tablet 3. Change letter "N" W to "S" W so as to read, "S.W. corner original presidio" and reset in brick pavement in the west patio of the Officers' Club, at the actual southwest corner of the old presidio.

60. G.M. Chandler, December 15, 1939, and March 21, 1940, to C. Hudson, filed in Public Relations Branch, PSF.

Tablet 4. No change in the lettering, but reset the tablet some 400 feet to the south of its present location in its true location. The southeast corner of the original presidio falls within the old small frame chapel. This corner is marked in the floor of the chapel.

Chandler asked if the Daughters knew the firm that had made the tablets, adding that he was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the American Historical Society.⁶¹

Following World War I the Army carried out only a modest amount of new construction at the Presidio and Fort Winfield Scott. At the same time it began the removal of the more decrepit structures in the cantonments.

Improvements in communications brought about a new telephone exchange building (67) in 1919 and a radio receiving station (312) in 1921. Near the terminus of the streetcar line in the West Cantonment area a branch of the post exchange was erected in 1920. In addition to the sale of sundries, it operated a grill. Later the building served as a headquarters for the Military Police. In 1993 Letterman Hospital housed Medical Services in it.⁶²

Other small structures erected after the war included a water pump house (315) for the golf course on the southern boundary in 1921; a chemical storehouse (670) partially protected by an earthen berm in the vicinity of the 1914 stables also in 1921; two one story buildings (barracks 681 and day room 683) adjacent to the 1902 coast artillery barracks (682) on the eastern boundary of Fort Winfield Scott; and a guardhouse (988) at the entrance to the submarine mine depot in the Lower Presidio, these three in 1923.

The Engineers erected a corrugated iron warehouse (283) on the site of the fair's Oregon Building at the eastern boundary in 1924. Before long, this building and wooden buildings in East Cantonment raised the

61. G.M. Chandler, May 22, 1939, to Mrs. John A. Keating, copy at the California State Library, Sacramento. The 1994 study "Archeological Resources From the Spanish and Mexican Periods At the Presidio of San Francisco" by William Hampton Adams will result in further refinement of location the Spanish presidio.

62. In July 1940 the telephone exchange acquired a one-story wing measuring 25 feet by 37 feet. The PX-Grill also acquired an extension, in 1935. Near the radio receiving station two radio towers were erected, also in 1921. They are no longer extant. Forms 117, U.S. Army Commands 1920-1941, RG 394, NA. When the radio station received a new heating system in 1935 note was made that it received messages from Station WAR, Washington, D.C. and Station WTA in Manila, Philippine Islands.

ire of the citizens' Marina District Improvement Association. In a 1926 letter to Congresswoman Florence Prag Kahn the association characterized these buildings as detracting from the district's natural beauty and unsafe as well as a fire menace. The Engineers replied that the warehouse, less than two years old, was a neat well painted structure. They proposed building a fence to conceal it from the city and suggested that the citizens plant a row of ornamental trees along the fence. As for the cantonment the Army responded that it would eventually be torn down.⁶³

During the 1920s and early 1930s the Army concentrated on demolishing nearly all the temporary structures in the West Cantonment, some dating back to the Spanish-American War. The old company kitchens and bathhouses were the first to go. In 1930 the Presidio post commander had a survey made of the post's quarters:

Officers' quarters (permanent):	23 sets, married officers, Main Post
	1 BOQ, Main Post
	31 sets, married, Infantry Terrace
	20 sets, married, East Terrace
	41 sets, married, East Cantonment (permanent?)
Warrant officers and NCOs:	25, bachelor warrants, West Cantonment
	8 sets, married NCOs, East Cantonment
	18 sets, married NCOs, Lovers Lane
	48 sets, married NCOs, West Cantonment
	9 sets, married NCOs, Main Post
	11 bachelor NCOs, Main Post

Nearly all of the NCO quarters in the cantonments were unfit for occupancy.

Barracks:	Brick barracks, Main post, capacity – 1,103
	Frame barracks, Main Post, capacity – 220
	Frame barracks, West Cantonment – 373

By 1935 most of the original West Cantonment buildings had disappeared, some by sale, most through demolition and salvage. On one occasion the 30th Infantry's commander requested permission to destroy the twelve buildings in "Igorrote Village" that had been built by enlisted men out of salvaged material.

63. Marina District Improvement Association letter, n.d.; F.P. Kahn, November 1, 1926, to Ninth Corps Area; C.P. Summerall, January 21, 1927, to Kahn, GCGF 1922-1925, OQMG, RG 92, NA. While most buildings in East Cantonment were removed, five remain. Building 283 housed Sixth U.S. Army's Directorate of Engineering and Housing in 1994.

He said these buildings were unsanitary, rotten, and not fit for animals.⁶⁴

In 1932 the Army replaced older West Cantonment buildings with fifteen brick duplexes, each two story and costing \$12,560, for noncommissioned officers.⁶⁵ Other construction in the early 1930s included noncommissioned officers' quarters and a new chapel at the main post. Three duplexes (127, 128, and 129) for married NCOs were completed in 1931. Each brick duplex, two and one-half story, brick, and Georgian Revival architecture, had two wood frame sun-porches attached.

For many years Presidio post commanders had urged the construction of either a larger chapel for all the garrison or an additional chapel to complement the Civil War chapel. The Army Appropriations Acts of 1930 and 1931 finally provided the funds for an additional chapel. The new structure, located east of the national cemetery, was dedicated in 1931. The Spanish Colonial building had walls of reinforced concrete decorated with terra cotta ornamentation. An elaborate architrave surrounded the main entrance. A red tile roof covered the two-story-tall, cruciform-shaped building. The square bell tower received a bronze bell in 1933. A stained glass window dedicated that same year memorialized the deceased officers and men of the 30th Infantry Regiment. The artist Willemina Ogterop designed the other stained glass windows, which were sponsored or presented by various groups including the American Legion, Grand Army of the Republic, Spanish-American War Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Twenty-one colors and standards decorated the main sanctuary.⁶⁶

Completion of the chapel solved the ancient problems of a lack of capacity and whether the post chapel

64. The location of the village has not been determined. Igorrote, a member of any of several related mountain tribes of northern Luzon, Philippines. F.R. Brown, September 13, 1928, and April 22, 1930, to Ninth Corps Area; and removal records, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

65. Completion Report 1934, Construction Division, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Completed February 1932: 715, 716, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, and 749.

66. Harrison, Presidio Physical History Report; Milton B. Halsey, Jr., "Point Paper, The Presidio Chapels," (ca. 1990); Eveline O.K. Krimgold, "The Stained Glass Art of Willemina Ogterop," (1977); Folder, "Protestant Chapels," PAM; Completion Report, Construction Division, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Linda Jackowski and Jerry D. Mason, contributors, "Chapels of the Presidio." In 1933 a fresco titled "The Peacetime Activities of the Army," painted by Victor Arnautoff as a WPA project was added to the wall of a covered porch. Arnautoff also painted murals in San Francisco's Coit Tower. In 1973 a granite memorial to army chaplains was added to the chapel grounds where a memorial garden was dedicated in 1975. A dedication of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial was held in 1986. With the completion of the new chapel, the old post chapel (45) became the Catholic place of worship and was named Chapel of Our Lady.

should have Protestant or Catholic services. Protestant services were assigned to the new building and the old post chapel became the Catholic Chapel of Our Lady.

As early as 1931 the War Department and the Presidio began exchanging correspondence concerning the restoration of the Officers' Club (50). By 1885 the 160-foot-long original adobe portion had been sliced in two and a wood frame ballroom addition inserted in the middle. Capt. B.L. Meeden, who carried out the reconstruction work in 1933-1934, wrote that the adobe walls were 14 feet high and from 4½ to 5 feet thick; no original roof remained but indentures in the adobe showed where old log rafters had lain (probably from the early army sawmill in Marin); all the window and door openings were original but the U.S. Army had installed the doors and windows. The Army dedicated the restored Presidio Officers' Open Mess on August 17, 1934. A 30th Infantry officer wrote that "the old building . . . sheltered since 1846 officers of all the branches . . . the social center of the post at the cross-roads to the Orient, Hawaii, the Philippines, Cuba, Panama and Alaska." He called it "the army's most historical building."⁶⁷

The reservation boundary walls required attention during these years. Because of the dispute concerning the Rancho de Ojo de Agua de Figueroa land claim, the wall along Lyon Street, between Green and Vallejo streets, had not been constructed. In 1932 Congressman Kahn asked the Army to take action because Presidio soil was washing into the street. The construction quartermaster reported that the existing wall along Lyon Street (rock faced random ashlar using Colusa sandstone) had become too costly and he recommended that a simple reinforced concrete wall be constructed inasmuch as shrubbery would conceal it. After much bickering the wall was built in 1926, the federal government paying \$3,670 and citizens contributing \$1,600. An inventory of the reservation boundaries on the east and south sides in 1925 showed 11,250 feet of stone walls, 8,850 feet of wire fencing, and 2,700 feet of board fencing.⁶⁸

Ninth Corps Area headquarters proposed in 1932 to widen Lincoln Boulevard. The twelve-foot-wide pavement that was laid in 1914 was no longer adequate because the road had become a link in one of the main north-south highways in that area. The proposal called for constructing three lanes each ten feet

67. P.W. Guiney, October 28, 1931, to Ninth Corps Area, and H.B. Nurse, March 8, 1932, to QMG, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA; B.L. Meeden, "Army's Finest Club Building - Restoration of the Officers' Club at the Presidio of San Francisco," *The Quartermaster Review* (November-December 1934); D.P. Yeuell, "The Presidio's Officers' Club, The Oldest Adobe Building in San Francisco" (August 1934).

68. A.O. Seaman, May 2, 1923, to Ninth Corps Area; W.R. White, October 12, 1925 to Ninth Corps Area, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

wide and for the elimination of a sharp curve. The Quartermaster General replied that funds were not available but Ninth Corps could readjust the barracks and quarters appropriation if necessary.⁶⁹

The bandstand originally located at the Alameda had moved across the parade ground to a site between post headquarters and the commanding officer's quarters in 1907. In 1927 the post commander received permission to move the octagonal structure once again, this time to the children's playground within the horseshoe at Infantry Terrace. It remained there but a short time, the Secretary of War approving its demolition in 1935 because of its dangerous condition.⁷⁰ In 1934 Maj. Gen. Malin Craig, commanding the Ninth Corps Area, wrote Washington concerning proposed construction at the Presidio. In his letter he mentioned that the Quartermaster General was preparing to consolidate the main post's two parade grounds – the original parade between Mesa and Graham streets and the later parade between Anza Avenue and Montgomery Street.⁷¹

Two other events of note in 1934 involved the closing of the Fort Point light and a new numbering system for the Presidio buildings. The light station was discontinued on September 1, 1934. The Ninth Corps Area acquired the structures, including the three keeper's cottages and the small lighthouse structures, without cost. That fall the Quartermaster said that he wanted to make a completely new Historical Record of all the Presidio's buildings:

Main Post – 100-299
Infantry Terrace – 300-399
East Terrace – 400-499
East Cantonment – 500-699
West Cantonment – 700-899⁷²

69. H.L. Walthall, May 11, 1932, to AG, WD, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

70. F.C. Bolles, August 11, 1927, to Ninth Corps Area; Secretary of War 1935, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

71. M. Craig, June 1, 1934, to AG, WD, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Ever since the Civil War the upper (southern) half of the parade ground between Mesa and Graham streets had been considered the Presidio's parade ground. Its surface had long since been oiled and sanded. (The northern half had been grassed and set aside for sports activities and temporary campgrounds for the National Guard and other groups). The other area adjacent to Montgomery Street had been regarded as company areas after construction of the brick barracks. It also served as an artillery park, a light artillery drill area, guard posting, and an assembly area. The earliest reference to it being considered a parade ground (for the coast artillery?) that has been found was dated 1911.

72. E.G. Mitchell, September 14, 1934, to Secretary of War; H.J. Weishaar, November 6, 1934, to QMG, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Apparently later, buildings in the lower post were numbered 900-999. Folder, files of War Department QMC form 117, OCE,

The Great Depression struck the nation in 1929. It wiped out people's savings and their confidence. By 1932 eleven million working Americans found themselves unemployed. The Democratic Party and Franklin D. Roosevelt swept the national elections that fall. In 1933 the Public Works Administration (PWA) under Harold L. Ickes came into being. While it concentrated on heavy and durable projects such as dams, bridges, irrigation projects, and the like, it had an impact on the Presidio in terms of funds for improvements. Two years later the Works Progress Administration (WPA) (the name changed to Works Projects Administration in 1939) under Harry L. Hopkins was established. It complemented the PWA by specializing in light public works such as roads, airports, schools, state guidebooks, etc.

The accumulation of supplies for the CCC camps at the Lower Presidio caused the construction of some temporary sheds and additions to existing warehouses in 1935 and 1936. A shed for the storage of CCC vehicles, 54 feet by 468 feet, having twenty-six sets of double doors and a floor of crushed rock, was completed in March 1936 at a cost of \$5,251. Painters applied two coats of blue-gray paint to its exterior. A shed, 60 feet by 255 feet and without a floor, also completed in March, held the camps' tent poles. A third structure was an addition to an existing warehouse. This one story, wood frame structure, 20 feet by 216 feet, had a six-inch thick concrete floor and nineteen double hinged doors. Completed in 1935, it cost less than \$2,000. It stored Signal Corps supplies destined for the camps. Still another wood frame storehouse, 74 feet by 134 feet with an eight-foot wide loading platform next to the railroad was completed in 1935 at a cost of \$8,000. Despite these structures the quartermaster worried at one point that more than 12,000 steel cots were sitting in the rain. None of these structures are extant.⁷³

The Golden Gate Bridge District constructed three small magazines or "ammo warehouses" (631, 632, 633) in the Lower Presidio in 1935. The windowless, hollow tile, stuccoed structures probably held small-arms ammunition, flares, etc., for the Presidio and Crissy Field, several of the coastal batteries' magazines in the general area having been destroyed by bridge construction and for a nearby target range. The Presidio acquired a new incinerator in 1936. The ten-ton, forced draft garbage incinerator, housed in a brick building (669) that measured 24 feet by 32 feet and costing \$17,800, consumed garbage and

(..continued)

RG 77, NA. Structures in the North Cantonment, Lower Presidio, appear not to have been numbered.

73. Construction Quartermaster, Fort Mason, December 11, 1935, and March 25 and May 5, 1936, Completion Reports 1917-1919 [sic], OQMG, RG 92, NA.

refuse from the Presidio, Crissy Field, Fort Winfield Scott, Fort Mason, and the army transports docking at Fort Mason.⁷⁴

Little new construction took place in 1937 (a transformer, 616, for the Golden Gate Bridge District); but 1938 brought a flurry of activity. On July 1 work began on a \$2.3 million rehabilitation program. The *San Francisco Chronicle* editorialized, "The Chamber of Commerce is well advised in asking the Secretary of War to take counsel with architects familiar with local conditions and traditions before starting the new construction at the Presidio. It would be a pity if its designs were out of keeping with the spirit of the local scene."⁷⁵

On July 1 the Quartermaster General advised San Francisco that more than \$2 million had been allotted for PWA and WPA construction at the Presidio:

2 barracks, 250-man (one for quartermaster troops, one for coast artillery)	\$225,000	each
Telephone communications	5,000	
4 NCO quarters	38,870	
Bakers and Cooks school and barracks	170,410	
Sales commissary and warehouse	77,500	
34 NCO quarters	334,560	
30 officers' quarters (10 field grade, 20 company grade)	474,000	⁷⁶

One of the first WPA projects was improvements to the Presidio officers' club: an addition to house a new kitchen, pantry, and food preparation room; to enlarge the dining room and raise its ceiling, and a new service road at the rear. Work began in May and was completed in July 1938. A surplus of funds allowed for new lighting fixtures, a patio, and maple flooring in the ballroom. The club could now accommodate 225 officers and up to 450 on special occasions.⁷⁷

74. PSF, Completion Reports, OCE, RG 77, NA.

75. *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 25, 1938; PSF, Post Diary 1931-1937, entry July 1, 1938; PSF, Completion Reports, OCE, RG 77, NA.

76. C.D. Hartman, July 1, 1938, to Construction Quartermaster, San Francisco, District Engineer, General Correspondence 1927-1939, OCE, RG 77, NA. The above sums total \$1,650,340. In another letter dated June 24, 1938, Hartman listed the funds as PWA - \$1,415,000, and WPA - \$661,000, or a total of \$2,076,000.

77. J.F. Byrom, May 9, 1939, PSF Completion Report, OCE, RG 77, NA.

In anticipation of new quarters the construction quartermaster proceeded to remove eight additional buildings from the West Cantonment area and no fewer than twenty-five from the hitherto untouched East Cantonment. WPA labor undertook the salvage.⁷⁸

One structure that may have been completed in 1938 was a concrete flammable storage structure (990) adjacent to the submarine mine wharf. Some buildings records give 1938 as the completion date while others state September 8, 1948.⁷⁹

During the 1920s and 1930s the Army built a multitude of automobile garages at the Presidio. In 1939 many more were constructed – two; three; and four-vehicle garages at Infantry Terrace (375-383); three- and four-vehicle garages at East Terrace (552-557); and four-, five-, and six-vehicle garages at the new quarters in West Cantonment (734-737 and 761-763). A water pump (316) was installed near Mountain Lake, and a tennis court (384) at Infantry terrace took the place of the former children's playground and a bandstand. A small storage structure (671) sprang up in the stables area.

A major WPA undertaking at the main post was the 1938-1939 construction of the War Department theater (99). The reinforced concrete building measured 72 feet by 166 feet and it had a tile roof. Funds ran out before completion but an infusion of an additional WPA \$21,600 brought the building to an opening date of July 30, the total cost amounting to \$171,000. That day four free performances entertained the troops:

- 1 p.m. – children of all local army posts and their families
- 3 p.m. – Fort Scott and Fort Mason personnel and families and Presidio
enlisted men and their families
- 6 p.m. – Letterman General Hospital and Presidio enlisted men and their families
- 8 p.m. – Officers and families of all posts and 30th Infantry NCOs and families

The program on opening day provided a musical "Rollin in Rhythm," a Mickey Mouse cartoon "Society

78. F.D. Jones, July 6, 1938, to Ninth Corps Area, San Francisco District, General Correspondence 1927-1929, OCE, RG 77, NA. The buildings removed included officers' quarters, servants' quarters, NCO quarters, garages, and a stable of unspecified size.

79. National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, p. 7-187; PSF, Real Property Inventory, DA Form 2877, PSF, DEH.

Dog Show," and the feature "I'm from Missouri," starring Bob Burns, Gladys George, and Gene Lockhart. Golden Gate Park provided a wide variety of plants, shrubs, and trees for landscaping the grounds.⁸⁰

The Army awarded a contract in November 1938 for the construction of a combined school and barracks for the School of Bakers and Cooks. These men had been quartered in many places over the years including the East Cantonment, the cavalry barracks (35) in 1918, and most recently at Fort Winfield Scott. A site was selected on the west side of Halleck Street near the post bakery. Following considerable debate, Colusa sandstone, was selected for the foundation. Clay tile curtain formed the walls. The handsome structure (220) was completed in November 1939.⁸¹

The same contract that built the school building also called for a new sales commissary, 603, in the Lower Presidio. It too had clay tile curtain and reinforced concrete, a tile roof, and it stood on steel H-piles forty feet long. The two story, 49½ feet by 104½ feet building cost \$56,700 and opened for business in 1939.⁸²

Completed on Christmas Day 1939, nineteen brick duplexes for noncommissioned officers joined the 1932 buildings of similar construction in the West Cantonment area. Other WPA projects started at this time did not reach completion until 1940. These included the two 250-man reinforced concrete barracks (38 and 39) on the main parade in line with and south of the cavalry barracks. Ostensibly constructed to house quartermaster and coast artillery troops, the two barracks, like the cavalry barracks, quickly became offices for the Ninth Corps Area headquarters as the world became restless.⁸³ Also completed in 1940 were fifteen WPA-financed duplex officers' quarters along Simonds Loop (510-514 and 530-539) in the former East Cantonment. Field grade officers occupied five of the structures, company officers the other ten. Probably WPA-financed, the Park Presidio Approach Road and Tunnel within the Presidio

80. _____, May 18, 1938, to General Seaman; F.D. Jones, May 22, 1939, to B.P. Lamb; District Engineer, General Correspondence 1927-1939, OCE, RG 77, NA.

81. C. Stalsburg, n.d., to Commandant, GCGF 1922-1935, OQMG, RG 92, NA; File, School for Bakers and Cooks, District Engineer, General Correspondence 1927-1938, OCE, RG, NA. In recent years building 220 has served as post headquarters.

82. Ibid; Stewart and Erwin, p. 66.

83. No evidence has been found that suggests that the Army had this use in mind before construction began. Sixty years had passed since the Army first sought to have a major headquarters building on the Presidio.

opened to Golden Gate Bridge traffic on April 21, 1940.

In late 1936 Mrs. W.F.C. Zimmerman, Chairman of History and Landmarks, City and County Federation of Women's Clubs, San Francisco, began a determined campaign to have the original Spanish presidio reconstructed in its entirety. On June 6 her organization forwarded a resolution to that effect to the U.S. Congress. She collected photographs and newspaper articles on the PWA/WPA work, gave radio talks, met with Presidio commanders, and wrote to the secretary of war. Finally in December 1937 the War Department wrote her to the effect that while the plan was considered a most worthy enterprise, unfortunately the Presidio required the site for training purposes.⁸⁴

Fort Winfield Scott participated to a lesser degree in new construction in the PWA and WPA programs of the 1930s. An officers club (1331), erected in 1921, stood in a glade between officers' row and post headquarters. Eleven duplexes for NCOs were constructed in 1933 on Ruckman Avenue (1275-1277) and on Battery Wagner Road (1289-1298), on either side of the disarmed Battery Howe-Wagner. A small storehouse (1233) and a garage (1285) were also built in the vicinity of the battery at the same time. In 1938 an inspector general listed the WPA funds that the fort had received since July 1937: Buildings – \$115,600; two (temporary?) barracks – \$6,575; roads – \$25,000; rehabilitation of roads and trails – \$155,217; and a parking area – \$6,680. He added that \$842,600 in WPA funds had been released recently for the rehabilitation of buildings and grounds at Forts Scott, Miley, and Funston.⁸⁵ Another report said that "war time" officers' quarters (the 1917 Coast Artillery Cantonment?) were being torn down; Lincoln Boulevard was being widened from ten to twenty-two feet and sharp curves eliminated. Other roads at the post also were widened and paved with emulsified asphalt.⁸⁶

A rustic, wood frame, log and stone noncommissioned officers' club (1299) opened its doors at Fort Winfield Scott in 1937. WPA funds were not involved with its construction. Fire destroyed the structure in 1942 but it was quickly rebuilt. The walls consisted of uncoursed stone and logs. Tree trunks served as

84. Zimmerman Papers, "Military Posts, Calif., San Francisco," vertical file, Archives, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA.

85. J.M. Graham, June 13, 1938, to Ninth Corps Area, GCGF 1935-1945, OQMG, RG 92, NA. It is possible that the elaborate stonework along officers' row on Kobbe Avenue was the result of WPA funding.

86. William Mooser, Jr., "Report on Progress of the Works Program in San Francisco" (typescript, January 1938), items 3462, 3805, and 3806.

columns in the interior. Later it served for a short time as an enlisted men's club, then in the 1970s as an officers' club. A youth center occupied it in 1981 but by 1990 it stood abandoned. In 1939 the commanding officer's quarters acquired a garage (1341) and in the coastal batteries' industrial area a searchlight repair shop (1353) was erected.

By 1941 the Great Depression was a thing of the past. America no longer was a land of men looking for work but jobs looking for men. Unemployment vanished rapidly and the Works Projects Administration closed its doors. The two decades since World War I had seen considerable improvements on the Presidio military reservation. While the Coast Artillery at Fort Winfield Scott played a reduced role in the harbor defenses, that was about to change with the full activation of the 6th Coast Artillery. At the Presidio the 30th Infantry Regiment enjoyed two decades of rigorous training as well as the delights of the city. Now war clouds, still on the horizon, moved slowly closer.